

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are sick and tired of paying for the corporation's bad management. They are sick and tired of paying for abnormally high absenteeism among its employees. My constituents in Saint-Colomban, for instance, fail to understand why they cannot have a decent Post Office, since as taxpayers they are paying the bill for this mismanagement.

In his February Budget, the Minister of Finance clearly demonstrated that the Conservative Government is determined to deal with this problem. Canada Post is to prepare a new operational plan that will increase productivity and efficiency and improve the reliability of its service.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Canadian taxpayers are prepared to support this Government and not give if there is a strike by the letter carriers, who in any case ought to prove they are efficient before making strike threats.

\* \* \*

[English]

### THE BUDGET

#### SUPPORT FOR MEASURES TO RESTRAIN EXPENDITURES

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, at last we have a Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) who believes it is time to pay our bills and stop borrowing to pay for excessive spending. The country has been awash in red ink for the past decade. Prior to 1975 Canada's fiscal structure was one of the soundest and best managed in the industrial world. Reckless spending by the previous Liberal Government made it one of the weakest. Now we have a Minister of Finance who is implementing financial restraint.

Runaway spending has been brought to an abrupt halt. Total spending for the year ending March 31, 1986, will increase by less than 3 per cent, well below the 3.9 per cent forecast last May. Excluding interest payments, there will have been a zero increase in spending this year, a remarkable achievement. Canadians know the Minister is on the right track, and they will give him unstinting support.

\* \* \*

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### SIZE OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday I drew to the attention of the House the substantial cuts made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in the regional economic development spending envelope. However, when one looks more closely at the various cuts to the various Departments contained within this envelope, it becomes more disturbing.

Seven programs in the Department of Regional Economic Expansion have been cut, and the cuts are somewhat staggering. For the IRDP the cut is 80.74 per cent. Under the heading

### Oral Questions

"Transfers and Contributions" it is 34.3 per cent. Under the Defence Industry Productivity Program it is 5.8 per cent. Under the Shipbuilding Industry Program, it is 17.4 per cent. Under contributions to non-profit and commercial operations in support of tourism there is a 17.6 per cent cut. Native people in this country have received a 48 per cent cut. It is very clear and very evident that the Government is not concerned with regional economic development anywhere in the country, whether it be British Columbia or Atlantic Canada.

\* \* \*

● (1415)

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRESIDENT OF THE NEA DEMOKRATIA PARTY OF GREECE

**Mr. Speaker:** May I advise Members of the presence in our gallery today of Mr. Constantin Mitsotakis, President of the Nea Demokratia Party of Greece.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF LABOUR FOR THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Speaker:** May I also advise Members of the presence of the Hon. Joe Mombourquette, Minister of Labour from the Province of New Brunswick.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE BUDGET

#### OIL PRICE AND INTEREST RATE PROJECTIONS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday in the House the Minister of Finance virtually admitted that his assumptions of oil prices and interest rates had been made because of printing requirements and did not reflect reality. My question to him is due to the fact that the projections on oil prices and interest rates are out of date and do not accord with reality. Would he be willing to table in this House more accurate up-to-date projections so that we would have a better grasp of the real deficit and other projections of the Budget in current terms, so that the country would have a more up-to-date picture?

**Mr. Broadbent:** Don't hold your breath, John.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, first of all let me advise the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the year has not started. It starts in about four weeks'